

# HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917  
Vol. 14 No. 2 - February, 2006

## WHY "HAM" RADIO ???

Why an Amateur Radio Operator is called a "HAM" is unknown to most of us Hams. I found the following description in the March/April 1994 issue of THE AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATOR, on page 10:

According to the Northern Ohio Radio Society, the word ham was applied in 1908. It was the call letters of one of the first wireless stations, operated by members of the Harvard Radio Club.

The three operators' names were:

Albert S. Hyman

Bob Almy

Peggie Murray

They called their station Hyman-Almy-Murray originally. This, however, proved too long to tap out in code! So, they changed it to HY-AL-MU. But in 1909, confusion arose when HYALMU called a Mexican ship named HYALMU. Once again they changed their call sign to become HAM.

Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill as the topic for his Harvard thesis. The bill would have critically limited Amateur activities, in favor of commercial stations. Hyman's instructor saw that a copy of Hyman's thesis was sent to Senator David L. Walsh.

Senator Walsh was then a member of one of the committees hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed by the thesis, he called Hyman to appear before the committee.

Hyman described to the committee how the HAM station was built. He almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill passed, the HAM station operators would have to close the station. They simply could not afford the hefty license fees and other federal requirements contained in the bill.

The HAM station became a symbol to all small Amateur stations in the country. Each Amateur station operator hoped to be saved from the selfish, greedy commercial stations who wanted to force them out.

Subsequently, when the bill came to the floor of Congress, every speaker spoke about the poor little station "HAM". The whole story can be found in the Congressional Record. The nationwide publicity connected the HAM station with Amateurs. Thus, an Amateur Radio Operator is called a HAM.

73 de Jim - KD6QVO @ NOARY,  
#NOCAL.CA.USA.NA

## MRAC Officers

### President

Patrick Moretti W9UQ

### Vice President

Howard Parks AB9FH

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Jerry Wahlen WA9CGE  
(05-07)

Dick Wood W9JBE  
(05-07)

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# NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY			
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	145.1300 ARRL voice news
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.2700+ Weather & Swap Net
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Thu.	9:00 PM	50.1600 6 m. SSB Net
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.9100- Computer Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>8:30 PM</b>	<b>28.4900 MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)</b>
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>9:00 PM</b>	<b>145.3900- W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net</b>
Mon.	8:45 PM	146.6700-	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Sat	9:00 PM	146.9100- Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.9850 QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650+	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.5650 X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.8000+ FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)			SWAPnet
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.9100- Information Net
				Sun.	9:00 PM	146.9100- Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz  
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

## HAMATEUR CHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.<sup>00</sup> per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church  
Fellowship Hall  
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

## Ideal Tower?

I'm a Sales Agent for a national power company, Florida Power & Light with facilities in more than 30 states. I have a steel tower from a wind farm and thought perhaps it could be useful to a radio operator with some minor modifications.

**For Sale:** Galvanized tubular steel tower with associated guy wires and hardware. Approximately 208' tall, weighs ~5600 pounds. Was used as temporary test tower for wind power farm expansion. Instrumentation and associated cabling redeployed but tower disassembled and available for sale. Pictures available upon request.

Interested parties contact:  
"barry\_street@fpl.com"

or

**561-691-7429.**

## CREDITS

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

K9LCQ      K9RYW      KD6QVO  
WB9PTC      W9UQ      KF9XL

Our thanks go

Rita Doneis, Howard Parks, Hal Newton, and Tom Fuszard, for proof-reading the 'Chatter' this month.

Dick Wood for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter.

Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.



Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meeting.

Tom Sherlowsky for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who manage our VEC.

**Thank  
YOU!**

# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 1/27/06

There were 42 members or visitors in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by club President Patrick, W9UQ. Patrick then welcomed everyone present.

The microphone was passed for all those present to introduce themselves

Charles Grady, KC9IIV, was nominated for the open Directors position. Charles accepted and was appointed by Patrick.

The Treasurer's report was read by the club Treasurer Tom, AB9EK. There were no additions or corrections. A motion

to accept the report was called for. The motion was made and seconded. Then the motion the passed upon a voice vote.

The November meeting minutes were read by the club Secretary Brian, K9LCQ. There were no additions or corrections. A motion to accept the minutes was called for. The motion was made and seconded. Then motion passed upon a voice vote.

Buzz Talk: (where recent amateur radio activity can be discussed):

Buzz talk was good for this session with several members relating their on air experiences since the last meeting.

Code practice on the air was discussed. Code continues on Mondays

and Fridays (6:00 p.m.), with some additional practice sending on Wednesdays.


Dick NcNew, WB9PTC, is back at St. Lukes Hospital.

Joe, N9UX, gave an update on the FM Simplex contest.

Tom, KF9PU, gave an update on VEC activity.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian White, K9LCQ,  
Secretary

## MRAC HISTORY BRINGS BACK MANY FOND MEMORIES

Just by pure accident, I came across the history of the MRAC and started reading. It indeed brought back many memories, call signs and people I vividly remember from my early days in ham radio.

Indeed W9RH, Emil, was a good friend of mine and I can remember his home brew kilowatt on 40 meter narrow band FM! Yes, FM on 40 meters!! I also can remember a favorite saying of Jack Doyle, W9GPI. "Ham radio is for kids and old men"!! W9PWG, Ed, was my mentor for many years.

I have been continually licensed since 1952 with my current call and am still quite active on HF. I might suspect that if the membership records from the mid fifties are still around, my call will be found.

I doubt seriously that any of the hams that I knew in those days are around any longer, however, if there are, say hello for me.

*John Toschik, W9VZK* [w9vzk@yahoo.com](mailto:w9vzk@yahoo.com)

P.S. I've been located in Tulsa, OK for the past 35 years or so and it was quite nice to reminisce a bit. Perhaps if you do include my e-mail in your newsletter, it may jar a few memories. Yes, I am periodically in the Milwaukee area and if the opportunity arises, I'll drop by.

**W9VZK**

# WE ARE SURVIVORS

Author Unknown

We are survivors. We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, contact lenses, laser beams and the Pill. We were before radar, the atom bomb, credit cards, drip-dry clothes, frozen foods, dishwashers, clothes dryers, air-conditioners, and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together! We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent. We were before dual careers, house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, and commuter marriages.

We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and guys wearing earrings. For us, time sharing meant togetherness, not computers or condominiums. A “chip” meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware, and software wasn’t even a word!

The term “making out” referred to how you did on your exam. Pizzas, “Big Macs”, and instant coffee were unheard of. You could buy an ice cream cone for a nickel or a dime.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, GRASS was mowed, COKE was a cold drink and POT was something used for cooking. ROCK MUSIC was a Grandma’s lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Principal’s office.

We were not before the difference between sexes was discovered but we sure were before the sex change. We made do with what we had and we were the last generation that was so dumb we thought you needed a husband to have a baby!

No wonder we are confused and there is such a generation gap today, but **WE SURVIVED!!**

## OTA CW CLASSES

Dick McNew, WB9PTC, is still holding his “On The Air” code lessons/practice sessions. The class/practice is held on **Monday and Friday at 6:00 p.m.** on our repeater.

He needs more feedback from the listeners and participants to know if they are getting it and to know how to improve the lessons. If you can, check in so he has an idea how many are participating/listening.

Buck, K9RYW, has been helping out so Dick can take a break once in awhile.



## REMINDERS!

Please check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

Our **ten meter SSB net** is at **8:30 p.m. at 28.490 MHz USB.**

Our **two meter FM net** follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390 MHz** with a minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

Join us for **Saturday morning breakfast** at **Maxim’s Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr.** We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don’t have to be a member of the club to join us.



# EVENTS

**MRAC General Meeting**  
February 23, 2006  
7:00 P.M.

**ECARC**  
Amateur Equipment Auction  
MARCH 18, 2006  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
T/I on 146.910- rpt (110.9 pl)  
more info at  
[www.ecarc.org/auction.htm](http://www.ecarc.org/auction.htm)



**HamFest 2006**  
SUN. - MAR. 19, 2006  
Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds  
Jefferson, WI  
T/I on 145.49 rpt

**51st Toledo HamFest**  
SUN. - MAR. 19, 2006  
Lucas Co. Rec Center  
Maumee, Ohio  
T/I on 147.270+ MHz

**MARA SwapFest \***  
SAT. - APR. 22, 2006  
Mandt Community Center  
Stoughton, WI  
T/I on 147.15 (123.0 Hz pl)

\* **indicates VE testing is available.**

# DEADLINE

The **deadline** for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is the **7th day of each month**. If you have anything (announcements, stories, articles, photos, projects, hints) for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then. You may contact me by e-mail at: [pancho@thepark.net](mailto:pancho@thepark.net)

or by snail-mail at: **Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA, 1958 N. 38th St., Milwaukee, WI 53208**  
or by phone at:  
**(414) 344-4694**

# EXAM RESULTS

MRAC VEC held VE testing on Jan. 28, 2006 at AES. There were 12 Examinees, and 8 were successful in either upgrading or in qualifying for their initial license. Those VEs who participated in the session included the following:

Jim Albrinck ----- K9QLP  
Kent Christiansen -- N9WH  
Tom Czaja ----- KG9EE  
Ken Hahn ----- WK9H  
Nels Harvey ---- WA9JOB  
Les Hundt ----- AB9EY  
John Kraak ----- KF9XL  
Sherm Swanson ---- KB9Q  
Mark Tellier ----- AB9CD

Our **next exam session** is scheduled for **Saturday, Feb. 25, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. at AES.**

73,

*John (KF9XL)*

John, KF9XL  
MRAC VEC A

# TWAIN'S LOST INVESTMENTS

After Mark Twain had lost more than one good sized fortune in bad investments, a tall, kindly looking man asked him to invest a small sum in a strange contraption the stranger had invented.

"I've already lost my fortunes," Mark said politely. "And I have blisters all over from the burns."

"You don't have to invest a fortune," said the stranger. "For \$500.00 I'll give you as large a share as you want."

But Twain still refused. The tall, eager-looking man turned and started away.

"What did you say your name was?" Twain called after him.

"Bell," the man said, without looking back. "Alexander Graham Bell".

# EXAM SCHEDULE

MRAC VEC A Exam Schedule  
**Spring & Summer 2006**

Sat., Feb. 25, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES  
Sat., Apr. 1, 2006 - 9 a.m. @ AES  
Superfest  
Sat., Apr. 29, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES  
Sat., May 27, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES  
Sat., July 29, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES

**AES = Amateur Electronic Supply**  
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

73,

*John (KF9XL)*

John, KF9XL



The **next meeting of MRAC**  
will be **Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006**  
at **7:00 PM**

**Redemption Lutheran Church**

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

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**Please, DON'T call the church.**

**Our Repeater,  
Talk it up.  
145.390- MHz  
( 127.3Hz pl )**

**Our program for the  
February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting  
will be:**

**A program on  
Storm Spotting  
Presented by  
Charles, KC9IIV**

**(New Member)**

Visit our new website at: **[www.w9rh.org](http://www.w9rh.org)**

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**  
**332-6 7 2 2**



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